

People, AARP, in 2005 Florida was ranked number one in the highest population above the age of 65 at 16.8 percent. AARP estimates that Florida will continue to be ranked number one in this category and by 2020 21.8 percent of Floridians will be above the age of 65.

Long-term care can be provided in a few different ways. According to the National Long-Term Care Study, NLTCs, 60 percent of those over the age of 65 live alone, increasing their need for long-term care. With regard to nursing homes, a study by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services found that people who reach age 65 have a 40 percent chance of entering a nursing home. About 10 percent of the people who enter a nursing home will stay there 5 years or more. More than nursing homes, adult children or grandchildren are cited as the main caregivers to the elderly population. According to research conducted by the American Association of Retired People, AARP, two-thirds of older people with disabilities relied solely on "informal" help; approximately 75 percent of which was unpaid care from friends and family. With the leading elderly percent population in the country, 13.8 percent of Florida citizens 18 and above are caregivers. The AARP found that the total economic value of this type of caregiving was \$350 billion in 2006, which is more than what was spent on all "formal," hospice, paid caregiver, nursing home, etc. . . . long-term care, including both institutional and home and community-based services.

Long-term care is a variety of services that includes medical and non-medical care to people who have a chronic illness or disability. Long-term care can be provided at home, in the community, in assisted living, or in nursing homes. While long-term care is often used for the elderly, it is important to remember that you may need long-term care at any age.

While there are a variety of ways to pay for long-term care, it is important to think ahead about how you will fund the care you get. Generally, Medicare doesn't pay for long-term care. Medicare pays only for medically necessary skilled nursing facility or home health care.

With an ever aging population and the variety of services provided by long-term care, most families at one point or another are forced to make a decision regarding the future of a loved one who needs assistance with everyday living. These decisions are limited and costly, and many find themselves struggling between the high price of institutionalization or informal family care. In an effort to alleviate the financial and emotional burden that families find themselves under, I have introduced the Long-term Care Retirement and Security Act of 2008.

This legislation would amend the Internal Revenue Code to allow a deduction for eligible long-term care insurance premiums for a taxpayer and the taxpayer's spouse and dependents; and a credit for eligible caregivers caring for certain individuals with long-term care needs. This legislation has three provisions. The first two detail the major elements of the legislation regarding deductions and credits. The final part of the bill deals with consumer protections. Specifically this legislation would:

Permit individuals to make a tax deduction in an amount equal to the "applicable percentage" of eligible long-term premiums. An "Applicable Percentage" is defined as 25 percent

in 2009/2010, 35 percent in 2011, 65 percent in 2012, and 100 percent thereafter.

These deductions would create incentives for individuals and by 2017 the number of individual LTC policy holders will increase by 9 percent and 8 percent of individuals will increase the richness of their policy.

Require coordination of deductions and prohibits an individual from making the same deductions twice.

Permit long-term care deductions to be made under cafeteria plans and flexible spending arrangements.

Under cafeteria plans 12 percent increase in the number of active employees with LTC policies by 2017, as well as, flexible spending accounts creating an incentive for individuals to enroll in FSAs and use their funds towards LTC.

Establish an "applicable credit" for caregivers of those with long-term care needs. An "applicable credit" refers to \$1,500 in 2009, \$2,000 in 2010, \$2,500 in 2011, and \$3,000 for 2012 and thereafter. The applicable credit is multiplied by the number of individuals with respect to whom the taxpayer is an eligible caregiver.

Establish consumer protections based on the National Association of Insurance Commissioners recommendations for qualified long-term care policies.

Creating incentives and helping families to afford long-term care insurance will encourage many more Americans to take personal responsibility for their long-term care needs, not only providing more LTC coverage for Floridians but preserving public funds for those who need them.

I urge my colleagues to cosponsor and support this important tool for all Americans' financial and health security.

#### RECOGNIZING THE VALUE OF ICERD

**HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, March 14, 2008*

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today as Chairman of the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe to introduce a resolution which recognizes the enduring value of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, ICERD, as a cornerstone of global efforts to combat racial discrimination and uphold human rights.

To monitor the implementation of this important agreement a number of multinational organizations continue to cooperate as partners, including the United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, CERD; the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe's Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, ODIHR; the European Commission against Racism and Intolerance, ECRI; and the European Union Fundamental Rights Agency, EUFRA.

Recently, CERD held its 72nd session in Geneva, Switzerland to review anti-discrimination efforts undertaken by the Governments of Fiji, Italy, the United States, Belgium, Nicaragua, Moldova, and the Dominican Republic. At this session, the United States received a response to its April 2007 report it submitted

to CERD detailing measures taken to adhere to the convention. The "Concluding Observations" which CERD responded with includes a number of important achievements that we should be proud of as Americans, but also a number of challenges we must still unite together to address. Until the displaced of Hurricane Katrina are housed and hate crimes are eliminated from our streets and workplaces, we must be vigilant in our quest to be the world leader in tolerance.

Madam Speaker, I call my colleagues to join me in reaffirming the commitment that the United States has made in ratifying the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination. This resolution is the first step in recognizing the value of this international commitment, and I look forward to working with my colleagues toward its expedited passage.

CONGRATULATING FAYE BALMONTE VARIAS ON BEING NAMED THE 2008 SMALL BUSINESS JOURNALIST CHAMPION OF THE YEAR FOR GUAM

**HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO**

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, March 14, 2008*

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Faye Balcombe Varias on being named the United States Small Business Administration 2008 Small Business Journalist Champion of the Year for Guam.

Ms. Varias began her nearly 10-year-long career as a freelance writer for multiple publications, and today, she serves as the editor for Glimpses of Guam, one of the island's leading publishing and advertising agencies. As editor, she has been instrumental in the development and expansion of the Guam Business Journal, Marine Drive Magazine, and R&R Pacific. Through these publications, Ms. Varias has brought exceptional editorial coverage of Guam's small business news.

Ms. Varias' community efforts cross the spectrum. She has volunteered in schools, organized award-winning events, and committed to teaching our youth about the journalism profession. I congratulate Faye Balcombe Varias on her professional success thus far, and I join our island in celebrating her national recognition as Guam's U.S. Small Business Administration 2008 Small Business Journalist Champion of the Year.

TRIBUTE TO THE PORTLAND STATE UNIVERSITY MEN'S BASKETBALL TEAM

**HON. DAVID WU**

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, March 14, 2008*

Mr. WU. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Portland State University men's basketball team on achieving their first-ever birth to the NCAA Division I Championship Tournament. The Vikings capped off their historic season with a 67-51 win in the Big Sky Conference Championship game over